

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 035394/0117

#19 Amte  
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Y. Sorkin

Applicant: Nicolas VOUTE *et al.*  
Title: SMALL DENSE MICROPOROUS SOLID SUPPORT MATERIALS,  
THEIR PREPARATION, AND USE FOR PURIFICATION OF  
LARGE MACROMOLECULES AND BIOPARTICLES  
Appl. No.: 09/274,014  
Filing Date: March 22, 1999  
Examiner: D. Sorkin  
Art Unit: 1723

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to further examination on the merits, and responsive to issues raised in the Office Action mailed May 17, 2001, and discussed in an interview on January 14, 2002, applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

**In the claims**

Please enter the following amended versions of claims 1 and 6 into the record:

1. (Amended) Dense mineral oxide solid supports comprising:

(a) a mineral oxide matrix having an external surface and pores, wherein the pores have a pore volume which is less than 30% of the total volume of the mineral oxide matrix, and